







# Dreamwalker











#### Chapter 1 by PyromaniacSoap

Kayla loved listening to books. She would read them, if she could, but she was blind. Blind from birth. On the forty-five minute drive home from school, Kayla struggled to listen to her favorite book, Alice in Wonderland, but it was hard to pay attention when her brother Ryan was constantly bothering her, poking her, and just being annoying. Abruptly, another car slammed into the back end of their car. They spun out of control, and Kayla's head hit the window, and she lost consciousness. She woke up in a black box. A light from an unknown source turned on, providing sight. She was sure this must be what vision was like, but how could she possibly know?

Max breathed in through his nose and felt around before opening his eyes for the first time. The senses he felt were completely new to him. Never before had he experienced smell, touch, or sight.

The smell was first. The sweet scent of something new, or something "green." Max felt around and realized he was lying in a pliable, but pokey substance that made a rustling sound when he moved. He heard other sounds of mysterious forces moving through the air and blowing around his ears, leaving a whooshing sound. He didn't know what this was called.

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source of the massive, blinding light. He quickly looked away from it realizing pain for the first time.

He rubbed his eyes as he sat up slowly and looked around a little more bringing into view a large metal structure which had many colors including bright green, shiny red, happy yellow, and deep blue. The large structure was populated mostly by small beings that he realized to be more sentient creatures. They toddled, and ran along, and something in their activity caused them to scream and giggle. A small being approached him.

"Wook, Mommy!" it said excitedly. "I fownd a wobot!"

"H-hello," said Max, testing the word in his mouth as if feeling his way through the dark.

"Hi!" said the little human. "My name's Jeffewy!"

"N-nice to me-eet you, Jeff-eh-wy," Max said, producing the words slowly.

"Whewe'd you come fwom?" Jeffery asked, while trying to scratch his small, three-year-old head, and pick his nose at the same time.

"I d-don't know," Max replied thinking of the same thing himself. "What is that?" He pointed to the large glowing object, trying hard to not look directly into it.

"That's the sun!" said Jeffery, and after a long pause continued. "It made us bewy hot, so we went owside!"

Max didn't respond, adding this to his database.

"What's yow name?"

"Max," he said, trying to sound confident like this small being.

"What about those?" Max asked, finding the words a little easier this time, pointing at the large

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The person who was apparently known as "mom" walked toward them, to see what Jeffery was talking about. She seemed surprised to actually see a robot. She thought for a moment, and decided that since Jeffery didn't have many friends, that Max would suit him pretty well.

"I guess so," she said, looking at Max a little more closely. "Are you a- uh- a robot?" she asked, uncertainly, trying not to be rude.

"I don't know," Max replied, looking down at his arms, legs, and hands. Upon observation, he saw that they were not the same color or tone as the mother's and Jeffery's, but a metallic grey. "I guess I am, but how I came to be in existence escapes me."

"Huh," she said, not wanting to think about it too hard. Jeffery had found a friend, and that was enough for her.

"Well, Jeffery, why don't you show your new friend to our house?" "Ok, Mom! C'mon, Max!"

Max got up slowly, and began trying to walk with Jeffery down the rugged sidewalk, happy to have a friend, and happy also to have a place to stay.

#### Chapter 2 by PyromaniacSoap



While settling into his room, which he shared with Jeffery, Max's head began to fuzz. At first it was a small disturbance behind the eyes, but soon the static became blinding and deafening to him. Suddenly, it started to wane, and then the pain stopped as quickly as it had started. A new light flooded the room, showering it in a blue hue. A wide, blue light shone from Max's eye. A man appeared, made out of the light.

"Hey, Max. I know you don't know me, but I know you very well. After all, I built you. I did so in order to show a human's utmost ability to create machines to keep human-like qualities alive within another entity. I am Dr. Marley. I and a team of four hundred other scientists put you together from scratch, so don't go testing out your fall resistance on anything, even though it's

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He had learned a lot on the walk home, such as Jeffery's mom's name was Molly, and that their last name was Werna, and that the father was at work overseas.

Seeing Molly, he asked, "What does it mean to put heart and soul into something?" His speech capability was improving every time he spoke.

Molly shrugged, "It's a metaphor. I think it means to work really, really hard on something."

She was warming up to Max, but still wasn't sure she knew him, but he didn't seem to know a lot. She wanted to help him, to see him grow, as if he was her son. She was inexplicably drawn to his blue eyes, and she had begun to accept him into her family.

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That night, Max was restless. The house was quiet, as the others were doing a thing called sleeping. Max didn't know if he was even capable of sleeping in the first place. He didn't feel like he belonged. He tried to do what they did—close his eyes, think about nothing, and lie still... He opened his eyes again and found that he wasn't in the house any longer.

"Wow," he said aloud. "That was quick."

Looking around, he found he was in a large cube. It was bright orange with no doors and no windows or holes anywhere. He walked around, touching the walls absentmindedly, until a section of the wall pushed out and fell away. This gave way to a beautiful garden, covered in all the most colorful flowers. It was absolutely the most beautiful thing he had seen so far. "Hi!" Said a voice just below him. He looked down to see a short girl with long black hair and vibrant green eyes. She wore a faded white and blue dress, and she appeared to be about seventeen.

"Who are you?" she asked.

"Max," he said hesitantly.

"Why are you silver?" she asked

"Because," he said slowly, "I'm what you humans call a... uh... robot." He did not know quite what

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"So, uh, why are you here?" Kayla's curiosity seemed to be taking over.

"I don't really know. I just closed my eyes and found myself in the box here," he answered, thinking hard, not really sure whether or not he was awake or if this were real.

"Yeah? Well, I'm stuck here," she replied, obviously not happy about this subject.

"Oh," said Max.

"I was driving home, and some idiot hit our car. I lost consciousness there and woke up here."

"W-why are you still here then? W-why not just wake up?" Max

hesitated. "I th-think that that is the c-correct term."

"Don't you think I've tried to? I've been here for days! I can't wake up."

"I'm s-sorry."

She sighed and said, "Me too. I shouldn't have yelled at you when I barely know you."

One of the previously dormant shadows started to move behind them. Max noticed the movement first.

"Look o-out!" He dove at Kayla, knocking her to the ground, out of the way of the bullet-like figure that rushed at them. The shadow stopped and turned around, and charged again, flashing its white pointed teeth. Max stood up and took the blow to the chest.

"That'll leave a dent," he grumbled, looking down at himself and frowning.

The shadow stopped and turned again. This time the light revealed a tall thin man, with pale skin, yellow eyes, and black hair.

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The dark figure smirked, "Hello."

"W-who is this guy?" Max asked Kayla. He had never seen a human move so fast, not even Jeffery, who he had thought was the fastest being on the planet when he had run in front of him on the way home.

"Oh, you know, your 'friendly, neighborhood stalker' from hell."

"Stalker?"

"It's someone who follows you around to the point of being creepy."

"Let me take your soul!" The figure yelled, tired of the conversation.

"I like it where it is, thank you very much." She said, sticking out her tongue.

"I am not a mere mortal like yourselves. I am Dragnir, a Shadow Runner."

"You've told me that already!" Kayla scoffed, trying to sound and look braver than she felt at the current moment.

Dragnir lunged again, seeming to meld with the shadows as he shot toward Kayla. He was once again deflected by Max, who seemed to be calculating his movements as they came.

"I see you are well protected this time," Dragnir pouted. "I guess we'll go with plan B," he said under his breath.

"W-what's p-plan B?" asked Max, easily picking up what the stranger said from his current position.

"Sharp hearing too," Dragnir complained. "Your other option is to go through the cubes. They are series of challenges that I've created over the thirty years I've been here. All you need to do is find the key for that one first." He pointed to a large blue cube at the other end of the garden.

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